

VZCZCXRO7753
OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHJA #0304/01 0360922
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 050922Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3147
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0401
RUEHDT/AMEMBASSY DILI PRIORITY 0808
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 1329
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE USD FAS WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAWJB/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 000304

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SES-O, EAP/MTS, EAP/EX, S/CT, DS/IP/EAP,
DS/DSS/ITA, DS/CC
BANGKOK FOR COMPANY C

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [AMGT](#) [CASC](#) [PGOV](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: SITREP ON FLOODING IN JAKARTA

JAKARTA 00000304 001.2 OF 002

11. DCM chaired a meeting of the Emergency Action Committee (EAC) on February 5 to assess the flood situation in Jakarta and its implications for the Embassy. Rain in the greater Jakarta area continued over the weekend, exacerbating flooding caused by heavy rains the latter part of last week. Local media report between 300,000 and 400,000 displaced from their homes and 20 fatalities. There is no/no sense of political chaos or panic, and the public is taking this natural disaster in stride. Measures to address the situation are being taken by the national government, but responsibility for the flooding will likely rest primarily with the local city government, which has been slow to complete a second canal through the city, begun after similar flooding in 2002. Embassy remains operational, with full consular facilities. The Ambassador declared a floor emergency and USAID contributed \$100,000 in disaster relief for the city.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL

12. Transportation remains difficult, with some highways submerged or reduced to one or two viable lanes. Commuter trains are out of service today, and bus lines are seriously affected, with only one of seven main lines in operation. Much of the city's local workforce, including the Embassy's, is unable to get to work.

13. Travel to and from Jakarta's international airport has taken up to three hours in each direction (normal travel time is between 30 minutes and one hour), largely because of flooding on and around the toll road connecting the airport with the city center. Hotel accommodations are becoming scarce.

POWER AND UTILITIES

14. Some American employees temporarily lost power over the weekend, and others have been without power at their residences since early this morning. It appears that electrical power will not be restored today, and we are moving those affected into hotels on a temporary basis. There have been sporadic power and/or telephone outages in various parts of the city, and many areas of the city are

without cable television and/or internet services.

15. Only one Embassy work facility has been affected: the GOI building housing our NAMRU-2 facility lost power over the weekend. Electricity was reportedly restored to that building earlier today after some 48 hours without power; an emergency generator has kept essential medical supplies appropriately refrigerated. Barring further interruptions, the facility is expected to resume normal operations tomorrow.

ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND FSN RESIDENCES

16. So far no/no Embassy residential units have experienced flooding, though some units are in areas surrounded by flooded streets. The Embassy has staged vehicles at both the Chancery and the American Club compounds, and so far both compounds remain easily accessible. We have work crews available and active in facilities, computer support, transportation, switchboard and other services.

17. A number of our local staff is affected by flooding at their homes; we are working with our FSN association to determine how we can best assist those in need. We will attempt to meet immediate needs through voluntary fundraising among American staff. We will also be in touch with relevant Department authorities to tap into the FSN Relief Fund if appropriate.

CRITICAL FACTOR: THE FLOOD CANAL

18. Jakarta has one main drainage canal to convey runoff water out of the city and to the sea. It also carries water entering Jakarta from higher ground south of the city. That canal cuts across the center of the city and had been at its limit for several days. Over the weekend municipal authorities opened several of the sluice gates along the

JAKARTA 00000304 002.2 OF 002

canal to relieve excessive water levels further upstream. Surrounding streets are under water, although levels are being carefully monitored. A surge of water through the canal could inundate central parts of the city, potentially affecting Indonesian national government and Embassy operations. We are monitoring this situation closely with local authorities to anticipate any such developments. To a large extent the performance of the canal depends on the amount of rainfall Jakarta and certain suburbs continue to receive.

EMBASSY ACTIONS

19. In addition to measures discussed above, Embassy is taking the following immediate actions to address the situation:

-- A warden message has been released to the American Community advising of the situation in the city and Embassy operations and recommending against short-term travel to Jakarta at this time.

-- Embassy has granted appropriate leave to U.S. and local-hire staff having family emergencies or unable to commute to work because of flooding. Flex time is being used to allow employees to avoid rush-hour traffic.

-- A security notice was sent to Embassy employees and families advising of common-sense practices relating to health and safety in connection with the flooding.

-- Sections have been asked to review pending TDY travel to Jakarta and defer any non-essential travel until the weather stabilizes and the situation on the ground improves.

SITUATION AT OTHER MISSION POSTS

110. As of noon today local time, our consulates in Surabaya, Medan and our consular agent in Bali reported good weather,

with no forecasts of excessive rain in the near future.
PASCOE